



*World Confederation of Past Pupils of the Daughters of Mary Help of Christians*  
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My dearest Pastpupils,

we are celebrating today the 108 years since the foundation of our Association!! The first feeling coming from the heart is that of gratefulness to God who gave us people loving us a lot: Don Bosco as an inspiring man and Don Filippo Rinaldi as a performer of that idea. Together with them our dear Sr Caterina Arrighi and the first past-oratorians FMA from Valdocco (Turin). It is nice to go back to the origins and discover us cared, wrapped in affection and a lot of confidence.

Commemorating history, we understand that in Valdocco, the FMA Oratory, opened in 1876, when M. Mazzarello was still living, was attended by a great number of past-pupils, who helped the sisters in the educational job and wanted to continue their training, in order to commit themselves in the transmission of the salesian values received in the style of Don Bosco and M. Mazzarello.

Therefore, Don Filippo Rinaldi, Head Master of the girls' oratory, helped by the clever sister Caterina Arrighi principal of the House, on 8th March 1908 arranges the first meeting. On that occasion he presents the past pupils his proposal to organise themselves in an association in order to share and diffuse in their surroundings the values of an educational inheritance for the future generations of past-pupils scattered through over the world.

After a few days, on St. Joseph's Day, the Articles are approved and the first *FMA Past-Pupils Union* is officially founded.

In that first Articles or Rules, we find, clearly and simply expressed, the life programme that is asked to inspire the identity and vision of each FMA Pastpupil:

“To keep memory of the past years spent in the Oratory, encouraging one another in the persistence of the good principles, even in the family; to assist the married friends during the difficult starting of a new family; to visit the past friends in their illnesses and cure them in their needs, as much as possible”.

In the original Rules we find an invitation to pity actions, which is valid even for today. This is what we are asked by Pope Francis with his testimony particularly in the Jubilee Year.

Also M. Yvonne Réungoat, during 5th Elective Assembly in Mornese was saying: “As an ecclesiastical laical group, our Association is committed together with the whole Church to live and testify an Evangelical vision of the world, to propagate the Reign of God, to specially support the situations of fragility, starting with the members of the Association. Together with Mary, we are asked to be near isolated families, in the need of cares and attention, and of material help. You are a family yourselves in the grater God's Family”.

Yes, this is an ever new invitation, from yesterday for today. Therefore we are asked to be Pastpupils: merciful men and women, open-minded people, in everyday life, to express big and small love and pity actions.

This be my wish in the Anniversary of our Association, with a lot of affection and praying for all of you. On behalf of Sr. Maria Luisa Miranda, the President and the whole Council,

Suor Gabriela Patiño O.  
*World Delegate*